THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840.]

"*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*"—2 TIMOTHY, 4: 3, 4.

No. 52. Vol. LXIII. Thursday, December 26, 1901. Price One Penny.

"MORMONISM" AND CHRISTENDOM.

ATTITUDE OF THE FORMER TOWARDS THE LATTER CLEARLY DEFINED—ITS TRUE POSITION.

A GENTLEMAN who has taken much interest in the articles in the *Deseret News* in reply to the attacks by the Presbyterian convention upon the "Mormon" Church, writes to us expressing his opinion that the *News* had "the best of the argument," but wants to know whether the Latter-day Saints "reject Christianity in all its branches, with all its doctrines, despising the whole system and the gospel it proclaims."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not take the position set forth in this query. It accepts Christianity, that is the Christianity of Jesus Christ, in all its branches and with all its doctrines. But it regards modern Christendom, with its multifarious sects and denominations and preachers, and many of its contradictory notions, as entirely different from that Christianity which Jesus of Nazareth and His Apostles promulgated. There is, however, some measure of truth in every religion extant; that we certainly do not reject. There are good people in all the religious organizations both in Christendom and in heathendom; they, we certainly do not condemn.

The systems of religion which men have invented are human, and therefore are not to be regarded as authorized of God. Whatever good there may be in any of them is divine. That which is erroneous is from mortal man or from the Evil One. None of them could continue in existence but for the measure of truth therein contained. But they all embody errors

that stamp them as man-made and therefore unreliable. The Church of Christ must come from Christ, and its doctrines must be such as He reveals, not merely "the commandments of men." The good which some men and women associated with those systems are able to accomplish, we recognize and believe it is acceptable to God. But when men administer ordinances and ceremonies in the name of Deity which they have not been authorized by the Lord to perform, they assume a position which is displeasing to the Almighty, and their official acts in His name are utterly empty and void.

We do not despise or repudiate any principle of truth that is to be found in any system of religion, no matter by what name it may be called. Anything that is true in theology, philosophy, literature, science or art; in any discovery, invention or project, we accept and it blends into the truths of religion which the Lord has revealed in these latter-days, just as separate drops of water unite in one mass as soon as they coalesce. For "Truth is truth where'er 'tis found, on Christian or on heathen ground." There are some great truths in oriental non-Christian religions as well as in the sects that call themselves "Christian." None of these comes into repulsion with the system now revealed from heaven, and which is commonly dubbed "Mormonism."

This idea is clearly set forth in simple language in the Book of Mormon as follows:

"Wherefore, all things which are good cometh of God; and that which is evil cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin and to do that which is evil continually. But behold, that which is of God, inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, everything which inviteth and enticeth to do good and to love God and to serve Him is inspired of God."

We do not interfere, or wish to interfere, with the promulgation of anything that is true and beneficial to mankind, no matter from whence it proceeds. We do not desire to belittle the efforts of good men and women to elevate and improve humanity. On the contrary we wish them God-speed. If they have anything better or more advanced than that which we have received, we stand ready to accept it. But we know this: God has opened up a new dispensation, "the dispensation of the fullness of times, in which He will gather in one all things that are in Christ." He has set up His Church again on earth, and committed authority to chosen men to administer in His name and teach the truths which He reveals. As there can be but one true Church of Christ, no matter how many branches it may have in different nations, we do not regard any of the conflicting sects as divine or authoritative.

Our mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every creature, both in Christendom and in heathendom, and call upon all people, everywhere, to repent of their sins believing in Christ, and to be baptized by one having authority, for the remission of sins which comes through the atonement; with the promise that they who obey shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, which teacheth all things, guides into all truth, shows things to come and reveals the Father and the Son. It is the everlasting Gospel proclaimed by Christ Himself when on earth, and by the Apostles

whom he sent into the world for that purpose, and is the only way of salvation. The Church which he has set up to-day is organized after the pattern of the early Christian Church, and its ministers hold the same authority, power, keys and inspiration that were given to holy men of old.

This is our position as to the Church of the true and living God, and its attitude toward other religious creeds and societies. While we take this stand, and claim the right to worship God according to His revealed will, and the dictates of our own consciences, we accord the same right to all people upon the face of the earth, let them worship what, or whom, or when they may.—*Deseret News.*

THE PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY.

MONDAY, December 23, 1901, was the ninety-sixth anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, who first beheld the light of day in Sharon, Windsor Co., Vermont, December 23, 1805. Throughout the Stakes and Wards of Zion the day was fittingly remembered, this being done at the suggestion of the First Presidency, who recommended that special services be held in commemoration of that important event.

In accordance with these instructions, services commemorative of the day were held in the Liverpool branch hall last Sunday. Remarks eulogistic of the life and labors of the Prophet were made by the traveling Elders, after which President Lyman occupied the time, relating in an interesting manner incidents in the Prophet's career, and referring to the divinity of the message he had to bear and the fact that his history throughout bore evidence of his being highly favored of the Lord, and the instrument in His hands in opening up a new dispensation. President Lyman had been acquainted with the Prophet; he knew intimately each of his successors and could testify that all of them were men of God. The meeting was a highly enjoyable one and all present were much interested in the remarks made.

We expect early in the new year to pay further tribute to the memory of our beloved Prophet, space forbidding at this writing.

PRESIDENT LYMAN has received a highly interesting letter from Apostle Heber J. Grant, now stationed at Tokyo, Japan. While the work is yet in its preliminary stages, Apostle Grant and associates feel hopeful for the future, as their presence there has occasioned no little stir among the people. He speaks in high terms of the Japanese, and believes that once the Elders are able to converse with them in their native tongue, many will embrace the truth. Elder Grant is much delighted with the reorganization of the First Presidency, and is in full accord with all that has been done since the death of President Lorenzo Snow. His heart is full of good wishes for the Elders and Saints of this Mission, to all of whom he and his associates send loving greetings.

OUR readers will be pleased to learn that Elder James L. McMurrin, formerly of the Presidency of this Mission, is slowly recovering from his affliction.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1901.

EDITORIAL.

VOLUME SIXTY-THREE.—Volume sixty-three, of which this is the last number, is the product of the first year of the twentieth century—a year replete with events of more than ordinary interest, and one whose history is but the first page of a volume which bids fair to be the most remarkable ever written. Such a multiplicity of important events have taken place since the beginning of 1901, that to lay claim to having recorded even a tithe thereof, would be going beyond our professed scope. The history of the Church, however, has been given careful attention; and those who have followed the work of the Elders in their respective fields, will have noted with delight the favor with which the Gospel is received in every section of the Lord's vineyard. For this our hearts swell with joy and gratitude, for it points out the beginning of the end, in the which all things are to be gathered together in one in Christ Jesus. And our testimony is that it will continue to grow and increase, till righteousness covers the earth as the waters do the mighty deep.

For sixty-one years the MILLENNIAL STAR has been a constant visitor to the homes of the people. During that period many and varied are the changes which have taken place; but in all these changing scenes, the STAR has ever borne the one testimony, it has ever sung the one song, and that the lay of him, who, in the meridian of time, came to prepare the way, and with a loud voice proclaimed to the children of men: "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This is the message that the STAR has had to bear, this is the story it has had to tell, and how faithfully it has done so is best known to those who, with patience and perseverance and a faith begotten of the Father, have hewn closely to the line it has pointed out.

In submitting this volume to our readers, we do so with thankful hearts for past patronage and with a hope that in the year to come it may receive the same respectful consideration. Its mission is to do good, its aim to bless and cheer the human soul. That it has done this in the past we believe; that it may do this in the future we sincerely hope.

A GLANCE AT OUR REPORT.—A slight departure from the custom of previous years, unables us to close this volume with a report of the labors of the missionaries covering a period of eleven months, or from the first day of January to the 30th day of November, 1901. This report we have

much pleasure in laying before our readers, as it is an interesting reflex of the toil and energy incident to the preaching of the Gospel, and speaks volumes for those who have accomplished the work.

For the eleven months a force of approximately 536 missionaries have distributed 1,540,990 tracts, visiting in so doing 598,434 strangers' houses. This manifests clearly that in the matter of distributing the printed word the Elders have been much alive to the responsibility devolving upon them, having disposed of, for the period mentioned, 263,843 more than for the twelve months of the previous year, when there were 55 more Elders in the field. In this work there are three Conferences of the British Mission with a very gratifying showing, viz., the London with a record of 148,046, the Scottish with 136,029, and the Manchester with 113,593. Of these the best proportionate showing of conversations is made by Manchester with 6,494, or one to about every 18 tracts. Still a better such showing in the matter of conversations is made by Bristol which has 5,214 to 46,149 tracts or, roughly, one to about every 9 tracts, and by Birmingham whose record shows a little less than 10 tracts to every Gospel conversation. In Continental Europe the general average is 5 tracts to every conversation, although Turkey reverses this with 2 to every tract and Switzerland and the Netherlands come next with scarcely 3 tracts to every talk. The great difference in the two sections of the Mission is largely due to the fact that in some parts of Continental Europe the tracts are sold rather than given away as they are in Great Britain. This accounts in part, at least, for the diversified result, but we are nevertheless of opinion that in the British Isles some method should be adopted which would result in greater good and more conversations from the distribution of the printed word.

Open-air meetings for the period under consideration reached a grand total of 3,636 throughout the Mission, while for 1900 the number was 545 less. In this connection we note with pleasure the efforts of our brethren on the Continent. For years it has been a very difficult matter to hold any kind of public meetings in certain parts of Continental Europe; yet Germany and Scandinavia come forth this year with a report of 28 and 53 street meetings respectively, while Switzerland has held 7, making a total for that section of the Mission of 88, the British Mission contributing the remaining 3,548. To London is awarded the credit for the greatest number of such meetings, its total being 526. Scotland, which heretofore took the lead, is a close second with a total of 426, while Wales does herself proud with 377. Most of the other Conferences have done fairly well in this direction, the report generally reflecting credit on all for the work performed on the street corners.

In the matter of baptisms the season's work shows a grand total of 1,992 as against 1,606 for the calendar year of 1900. This we consider a remarkably good showing, as it produces the gratifying average of 3.6 per Elder, while last year the general average was a little over 2.6. In some sections, of course, the result is greater and less per Elder, but the general showing is as pointed out. In Continental Europe, for instance, the Netherlands Mission leads with a little over 8 baptisms per man. Then comes Switzerland with a little over 5, Germany with 4.7 and Scandinavia with a fraction

over 3. For the year 1900 these missions were credited with $5\frac{1}{8}$, $4\frac{1}{6}$, 4 and $2\frac{7}{8}$ respectively, so that the gain this year has been general throughout the land. Turkey is credited with one baptism for each Elder, but in justice to the brethren laboring there it should be stated that during the period covered by the report, there have been but four Elders in that section, this raising their average per man to $1\frac{1}{3}$, while last year they were first with $7\frac{1}{4}$. Iceland, as will be seen, is not reported.

The general average in Great Britain per man is about $3\frac{3}{4}$ as compared with nearly $1\frac{7}{8}$ for 1900. The result ranges from $6\frac{1}{2}$ in Grimsby to a fraction over 1 in Wales, these being the extreme figures each way. Newcastle comes second with nearly 6, Leeds with $5\frac{3}{4}$ and Sheffield and Ireland with nearly 4 each. Of course, these figures can hardly be looked upon as revealing the true condition in each field, as so many changes have taken place during the year in the way of releases, transfers, etc., that this method of comparison is apt to place some in a false light. The net results, however, as compared with the year previous are gratifying, showing as they do a steady improvement all along the line, and pointing conclusively to the fact that the brethren are by no means lax in the performance of their missionary labors. Each district has done nobly, and no censure or criticism is called for. All have worked faithfully and well—and in this the Saints are very much included—and deserve the greatest praise for their endeavors.

We commend our brethren and sisters for their faithfulness, and trust the New Year will bring them continued joy and thanksgiving. There are yet thousands of honest souls in this broad land yearning for a testimony of the Gospel, and these should be sought out with all possible dispatch, that the purposes of the Lord may be accomplished in due season, and the obligations devolving upon us as a people be discharged with that fidelity and devotion which has characterized our past efforts.

A. B.

A Happy New Year to all!

Our brethren and sisters throughout the Mission would do well to closely analyze the annual report. Its contents may offer valuable suggestions for the future.

The first number of volume sixty-four will appear in new dress throughout. This is one of the improvements promised a few weeks ago, and one, doubtless, which will be much appreciated.

In our next issue we begin the publication of President Snow's able article on "Mormonism," as it appeared in the October number of *The Land of Sunshine*. Those desiring extra copies to mail to friends and investigators, should send in their orders at once so that the printed supply may be made equal to the demand.

Appointment.—Elder Henry Seeger of the German Mission has been appointed to labor in the Grimsby Conference.

STATISTICAL REPORT, EUROPEAN MISSION, FOR THE ELEVEN MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1901.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Conferences.	Conference Presidents.	Branches.	Missionaries.				Local Priesthood.					Members.	Total Officers and Members.	Children under 8 years old.	Total No. of Souls.	Baptized.	Emigrated.		Excommunicated.	Died	Strangers' Houses Visited.		Gospel Conversations.	Tracts Distributed.	Books Distributed.	Meetings Held.	
			Apostles	H. Priests	Seventies	Elders	Elders.	Missionaries	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.						Over 8 years old.	Under 8 years old.			In Tracting.	By Invitation.				In Doors.	Out Doors.
Birmingham	Arthur N. Taylor	3			17		20		12	9	5	368	414	107	521	59	15			4	16921	2983	5906	56511	1254	915	280
Bristol	William Horsley	4		3	8		4		3		1	139	147	12	159	34	6			2	25203	1228	5214	46149	919	1189	293
Grimsby.....	Henry H. Blood	2			10		12		16	4	4	231	267	54	321	65	5	2		8	7775	1626	4002	71599	1694	538	233
Irish	George A. Dixon	2		1	6		3		8		1	83	95	27	122	26	8	4		3	5270	632	1210	28663	334	151	9
Leeds	Wm. A. Cornaby	7			14	2	8		10	12	20	482	532	79	611	80	11	1		9	13329	2250	3144	54548	1219	590	73
Liverpool ...	William J. Facer	7			15	1	5		10	7	7	218	247	55	302	56	13	5		6	17870	760	4347	76989	1349	1137	121
London	George Q. Morris	7			19	4	28		20	3	2	522	575	104	679	65	8			6	32780	1679	6545	148046	1859	1663	526
Manchester	Ernest Bramwell	12			17		19	1	13	5	4	289	312	86	398	40	26	3		5	20745	4820	6494	113593	3861	1115	300
Newcastle...	Fred. A. Mitchell	10			12	1	26		8	14	15	354	417	122	539	70	16	1		8	17725	2590	4192	72114	4043	1367	142
Norwich ...	Joseph Lindsay	3			8	1	8		10	3	4	188	213	48	261	28	5	1			9885	571	1903	38180	776	505	66
Nottingham	Step. W. Walker	4		1	12		17		14	12	24	359	426	35	461	30	22	3		3	20597	2303	2973	90368	1908	1092	191
Scottish	And. J. Bowman	5			12	1	31		10	22	17	286	366	106	472	35	7	1		9	40981	928	2033	136029	1489	843	426
Sheffield ...	Caleb D. Brinton	4		1	9	1	9		9	2	8	219	247	47	294	43	15	2		1	9080	660	2251	40420	438	1382	251
Welsh.....	Neils P. Aagard	3		1	14		11		6	9	8	146	180	32	212	17	17	2		2	21670	1517	3702	77996	1781	608	377
L'pool Office			1		4																						
	Total	73	1	7	177	3	8	201	1	149	102	120	3884	4438	914	5352	648	174	25		66	259831	24547	53916	1051205	22924	13095	3288

CONTINENTAL COUNTRIES.

Missions.	Mission Presidents.																										
Germany ...	Hugh J. Cannon	35		4	105		1	18	3	21	49	17	1440	1548	403	1951	514	92	33	2	14	75998	12563	22257	148482	10713	4478	28
Iceland * ...	J. Johannesson.				1																						
Netherlands	S. Q. Cannon.	16		1	28		1	27	2	31	47	31	1256	1394	510	1904	234	63	6	8	25	19984	4654	11762	32933	716	2613	
Scandinavia	A. L. Skanchy.	63		10	141		1	279	2	157	134	87	3867	4526	955	5481	434	196	47	67	69	221453	12872	52202	281912	11363	8284	53
Switzerland	D. L. McDonald	14		1	30			12		17	17	13	855	914	318	1232	156	68	22	4	15	21168	4180	8109	25348	1287	2842	7
Turkey ...	Albert Herman.	3			6			2		6	11	5	71	95	69	164	6	1		6	5		50	2410	1110	13	548	
	Grand Total...	204	1	23	488	3	11	539	8	381	360	273	11373	12915	3169	16084	1992	594	133	87	194	598434	58866	150656	1540990	47016	31860	3376

* No complete report.

NEWS OF THE GREAT WEST.

(Condensed from our Utah Exchanges.)

THE first snow of winter fell in Salt Lake on the 6th inst.

WHILE out hunting, December 1st, Jesse Forbes of Ogden was accidentally shot and killed, his own gun doing the damage.

EUGENE HUMPHRIES, a miner, was killed by a snowslide near Silver Lake, Cottonwood Canyon, on the afternoon of the 4th inst.

THE presidency of the Summit Stake of Zion gave the officers of that Stake a reception on the 30th ult. An enjoyable time was had.

ST. ANTHONY, IDAHO, is mourning the loss of its new $18,000 school house, which has been ruined beyond repair by the recent heavy rains in that section.

DR. C. C. CLARK, once a resident of Salt Lake, has struck a gold mine some 30 miles southwest of Laramie, Wyoming. The ore is said to assay $18,000 to the ton.

MARY ANN HYDE, wife of Patriarch Rosel Hyde, died at her home in Kaysville, the 1st. inst. She was born in Allegheny County, New York, December 31, 1820, and went to Utah in 1849.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH attended the Conference of the Iosepa colony the 1st inst., having an enjoyable visit with the native Hawaiians of that district. He reports them prospering.

THE officers of the Jordan Stake of Zion tendered a surprise party to their late President, Bishop Orrin P. Miller, December 4th. The guest of honor was made the recipient of a beautiful album containing the portraits of stake and ward officers.

MRS. MARY JUDGE of Salt Lake has authorized Bishop Scanlan of the Catholic church to proceed at once with the erection of a home and hospital for aged and infirm miners, the same to serve as a memorial to her deceased husband. It is estimated the buildings will cost in the neighborhood of $100,000.

FOR the purpose of creating an interest in the erection of suitable headquarters for the Scandinavian Mission at Copenhagen, a general gathering of Scandinavians was held the 3rd inst., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Madsen in Salt Lake City. Remarks suitable to the occasion were made by prominent Scandinavian citizens, and refreshments and musical selections formed a part of the evening's program. A ball will be given New Year's eve for the benefit of the building fund.

DIED.

STOCKDALE.—At Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, Utah, November 25, 1901, of general debility, Mary Stockdale; aged 81 years.

FLOWERS.—In Salt Lake City, December 3, 1901, of general debility, Harriet B. Flowers; born at Gilderston, Norfolk, England, September 28, 1823.

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EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY FRANCIS M. LYMAN, 42 ISLINGTON,
LIVERPOOL.
FOR SALE ALSO IN ALL THE CONFERENCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN.